

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-13 remain in the application. Claims 14-19 have been canceled.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 14-19 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Whitmire et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,313,751) (hereinafter "Whitmire") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Applicant appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-13.

Since the only rejected claims 14-19 have been canceled, the rejection is moot and no discussion of Whitmire is necessary at this time.

In view of the foregoing, formal allowance of the instant application is solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can

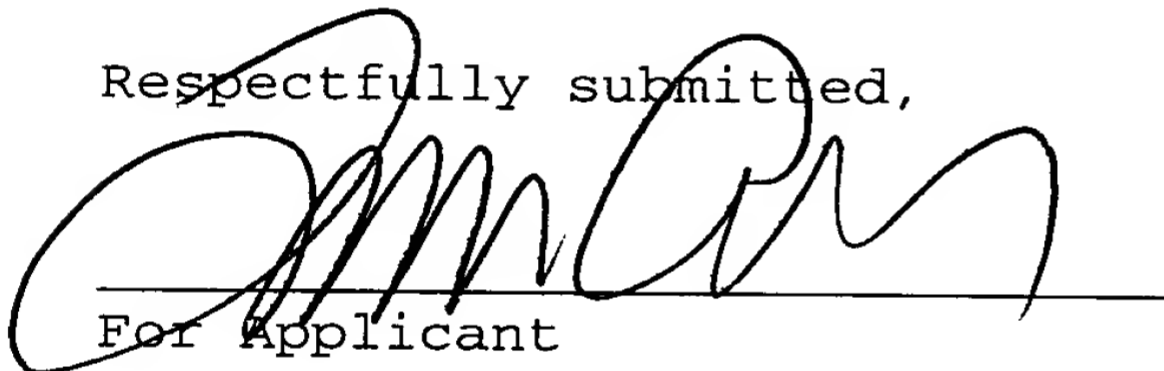
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Reply to Office Action of June 26, 2003

be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

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FDP/tk

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